

General

Guideline Title

Engaging clients who use substances.

Bibliographic Source(s)

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO). Engaging clients who use substances. Toronto (ON): Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO); 2015 Mar. 115 p. [179 references]

Guideline Status

This is the current release of the guideline.

This guideline meets NGC's 2013 (revised) inclusion criteria.

Recommendations

Major Recommendations

Definitions for the levels of evidence (Ia, Ib, IIa, IIb, III, IV) are provided at the end of the "Major Recommendations" field.

Practice Recommendations

Assessment

Recommendation 1.1

Screen all clients to determine whether they use substances.

(Level of Evidence = V)

Recommendation 1.2

For clients who use substances, use universal screening questions and/or an appropriate screening tool to determine the level of support required.

(Level of Evidence = V)

Recommendation 1.3

Conduct a comprehensive assessment with all clients who screen positive for substance use, as appropriate based on the nurses' knowledge, skill, time, setting and resources.

Level of Evidence = V)
Planning
Recommendation 2.1
Build collaborative relationships with clients through the use of motivational interviewing techniques to develop the plan of care.
Level of Evidence = Ia)
Implementation
Recommendation 3.1
Use brief intervention to collaborate with clients identified as at risk for or experiencing a substance use disorder.
Tevel of Evidence = Ia)
Recommendation 3.2
Advocate for and support access to combined pharmacological and psychosocial interventions, as appropriate, and promote the appropriate use of combined interventions to improve well-being and health outcomes.
Level of Evidence = Ia)
Recommendation 3.3
Engage youth and adolescents at risk for or experiencing a substance use disorder using family-based therapies until recovery, as appropriate.
Level of Evidence = Ia)
Evaluation
Recommendation 4.1
Reassess the effectiveness of the plan of care until the client's goals are met.
Level of Evidence = V)
Education Recommendations
Education
Recommendation 5.1
Integrate theory and clinical practice opportunities regarding care of clients at risk for or experiencing a substance use disorder into the undergraduate education of nurses and other health-care providers.
Level of $Evidence = V$)
Recommendation 5.2
Health-care providers participate in continuing education to enhance their ability to assess and work with clients at risk for or experiencing a substance use disorder.
Level of Evidence = Ib)
Recommendation 5.3
Nurses practice reflectively to enhance their awareness of their current and evolving attitudes, perceptions and biases, and values and beliefs when working with clients at risk for or experiencing a substance use disorder.
Level of Evidence = V)

System, Organization and Policy Recommendations

System, Organization and Policy

Recommendation 6.1

Advocate for improved health outcomes by:

- · Increasing access to integrative and collaborative care for clients at risk for or experiencing a substance use disorder; and
- Reducing health inequities by dedicating resources to preventing, treating, and supporting the recovery of individuals at risk for or experiencing a substance use disorder

(Level of Evidence = V)

Recommendation 6.2

Organizations integrate prevention, assessment, and management of substance use and substance use disorders as a strategic clinical priority across all care settings.

(Level of Evidence = V)

Recommendation 6.3

Organizations integrate components of harm reduction and the social determinants of health into comprehensive, multi-faceted approaches to addressing substance use disorders.

(Level of Evidence = V)

Recommendation 6.4

Organizations use knowledge translation processes and multi-faceted strategies to integrate best practices in the assessment and management of substance use and substance use disorders across all practice settings.

(Level of Evidence = V)

Definitions

Levels of Evidence

Ia Evidence obtained from meta-analysis or systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials and/or synthesis of multiple studies primarily of quantitative research

Ib Evidence obtained from at least one randomized controlled trial

IIa Evidence obtained from at least one well-designed controlled study without randomization

IIb Evidence obtained from at least one other type of well-designed quasi-experimental study, without randomization

III Synthesis of multiple studies primarily of qualitative research

IV Evidence obtained from well-designed non-experimental observational studies, such as analytical studies or descriptive studies, and/or qualitative studies

V Evidence obtained from expert opinion or committee reports, and/or clinical experiences of respected authorities

Note: Adapted from the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network. SIGN 50: a guideline developer's handbook. 2011. Retrieved from http://www.sign.ac.uk/guidelines/fulltext/50/index.html; and Pati D. A framework for evaluating evidence in evidence-based design. Health Environments Research & Design Journal. 2011;4(3):50-71.

Clinical Algorithm(s)

An algorithm titled "Algorithm for Engaging Clients Who Use Substances" is provided in the original guideline document.

Scope

Disease/Condition(s) Substance use Guideline Category Counseling Evaluation Management Prevention Risk Assessment Screening Treatment Clinical Specialty Family Practice Nursing Preventive Medicine Psychiatry Psychology **Intended Users** Advanced Practice Nurses Allied Health Personnel Nurses Psychologists/Non-physician Behavioral Health Clinicians Public Health Departments Social Workers Substance Use Disorders Treatment Providers Guideline Objective(s)

To provide evidence-based recommendations for nurses and other members of the interprofessional team across all care settings who are assessing and providing interventions to individuals who use substances and may be at risk for or experiencing a substance use disorder

Target Population

Individuals aged 11 and older who use substances and may be at risk for or are experiencing a substance use disorder

Interventions and Practices Considered

- 1. Screening questions and tools to determine substance use
- 2. Comprehensive assessment with all clients who screen positive for substance use
- 3. Building of collaborative relationships with clients
- 4. Collaboration with clients identified as at risk for or experiencing a substance use disorder
- 5. Advocating for and supporting access to combined pharmacological and psychosocial interventions
- 6. Engagement of youth and adolescents at risk for or experiencing a substance use disorder using family-based therapies
- 7. Reassessment to determine the effectiveness of the plan of care
- 8. Patient/client education
- 9. Education for health-care providers at the undergraduate level
- 10. Participation of health-care providers in continuing education
- 11. Participation of health-care providers in practicing self-reflection
- 12. Advocating for improved health outcomes through systems level changes
- 13. Integration of prevention, assessment, and management of substance use and substance use disorders as a strategic clinical priority within organizations
- 14. Integration of best practices in the assessment and management of substance use and substance use disorders across all practice settings

Major Outcomes Considered

- Increased screening and intervention rates
- Cost efficiency
- Recovery rates
- Hospitalization rates
- Adherence to interventions
- Quality of life

Methodology

Methods Used to Collect/Select the Evidence

Searches of Electronic Databases

Description of Methods Used to Collect/Select the Evidence

Guideline Search Strategy

Structured Web site Search

A member of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) guideline development team searched an established list of Web sites for guidelines.

Guidelines were selected based on the following criteria:

- Self-identified as a "guideline" in title or body of article
- Published in English; national and international in scope
- Developed between the years of 2005 2014
- Strictly on the topic areas listed in search terms
- Available and accessible for retrieval

See the search strategy document (see the "Availability of Companion Documents" field) for a list of Web sites searched.

Hand Search

RNAO Expert Panel members were asked to review personal libraries to identify and submit potentially relevant guidelines. Guidelines submitted for consideration by panel members were integrated into the retrieved list of guidelines if they had not been identified by the on-line guideline search and met the inclusion criteria.

Concurrent with the review of existing guidelines, a systematic review for recent literature relevant to the scope of the guideline was conducted by a health sciences librarian.

Guideline Review

The RNAO guideline development team searched an established list of Web sites for guideline	s and other relevant content published between
2005 and 2014. This list was compiled based on knowledge of evidence-based practice Web	sites, recommendations from the literature, and key
Web sites related to substance use disorder. Detailed information about the search strategy for	existing guidelines, including the list of Web sites
searched and inclusion criteria, is available online at www.RNAO.ca	. Guidelines were also identified by members of the
RNAO expert panel.	

Members of the expert panel critically appraised 14 international guidelines using the *Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation Instrument II.* From this review, five guidelines were selected to inform the recommendations and discussions of evidence.

Systematic Review Search Strategy

A comprehensive search strategy was developed by the RNAO guideline development team in collaboration with the RNAO research team and a health sciences librarian, based on inclusion and exclusion criteria created with the RNAO expert panel. A search for relevant articles published in English, between 2005 and 2014, was applied to the following databases: Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL), Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE), EMBASE, MEDLINE, PsycINFO, and Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA). In addition to this systematic search, panel members were asked to review personal libraries for key articles not found through the above search strategies.

Detailed information about the search strategy	for the systematic review	, including the inclusion a	and exclusion criteria	as well as search terms, is
available online at http://rnao.ca/substanceuse				

Number of Source Documents

5 guidelines and 74 studies were included. See the flow diagrams in Appendix D in the original guideline document for more information on the review process.

Methods Used to Assess the Quality and Strength of the Evidence

Weighting According to a Rating Scheme (Scheme Given)

Rating Scheme for the Strength of the Evidence

Levels of Evidence

Ia Evidence obtained from meta-analysis or systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials and/or synthesis of multiple studies primarily of quantitative research

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Methods Used to Analyze the Evidence

Review of Published Meta-Analyses

Systematic Review with Evidence Tables

Description of the Methods Used to Analyze the Evidence

Guideline Review

Members of the expert panel critically appraised 14 international guidelines using the *Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation Instrument II.* From this review, five guidelines were selected to inform the recommendations and discussions of evidence.

Systematic Review

Once articles were retrieved, the records were divided equally between two teams of research associates (RA), comprised of two RAs each (three RAs are nurses holding masters degrees; one RA is an epidemiologist holding a masters degree). Each member of the team independently assessed the eligibility of their studies according to established inclusion/exclusion criteria. The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) Best Practice Guideline program manager, who was involved in supporting the RNAO expert panel, resolved disagreements between RAs within each team.

Quality appraisal scores for 24 articles (a random sample of 10% of articles eligible for data extraction and quality appraisal) were independently assessed by each RA. Acceptable inter-rater agreement (kappa statistic, κ =0.71) justified proceeding with quality appraisal and data extraction by dividing the remaining studies equally between the RAs. A final summary of literature findings was completed. The comprehensive data tables and summary were provided to all RNAO expert panel members for review and discussion.

Methods Used to Formulate the Recommendations

Expert Consensus

Description of Methods Used to Formulate the Recommendations

For this new guideline, the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) assembled a panel of experts who represent a range of sectors and practice areas. A systematic review of the evidence, which captured relevant literature published between 2005 and 2014, was based on the purpose and scope of this guideline and supported by the following three questions:

- 1. What are the most effective methods of assessment for substance use disorders for individuals aged 11 years and older?
- 2. What are the most effective interventions for individuals aged 11 years and older with a substance use disorder?
- 3. What education and policy considerations may best facilitate nurses' care of individuals with a substance use disorder?

The RNAO expert panel's mandate was to develop an evidence-based Best Practice Guideline that will provide nurses and other health-care providers with current best practices for engaging clients who use substances. The recommendations in this Guideline aim to bridge the identified gap between current practice and evidence-based practice.

This edition (2015) is the result of the expert panel's work to integrate the most current and best evidence into the recommendations and provide supporting evidence.

Rating Scheme for the Strength of the Recommendations

Cost Analysis

A formal cost analysis was not performed and published cost analyses were not reviewed.

Method of Guideline Validation

External Peer Review

Internal Peer Review

Description of Method of Guideline Validation

Stakeholders representing diverse perspectives were solicited for their feedback. See the "Stakeholder Acknowledgement" section in the original guideline document for additional information.

Evidence Supporting the Recommendations

Type of Evidence Supporting the Recommendations

The type of supporting evidence is identified and graded for each recommendation (see the "Major Recommendations" field).

Benefits/Harms of Implementing the Guideline Recommendations

Potential Benefits

- Administering standardized screening instruments in a variety of practice settings (e.g., emergency departments, primary health-care settings, acute care settings, long-term care) has been shown to reduce substance use among clients; improve access to early interventions, thereby decreasing harms to clients' health and leading to positive client outcomes; and reduce health-care costs to the system.
- The evidence suggests that even one short episode of brief intervention (BI) is efficacious in improving outcomes. BI is effective in motivating
 clients to change and encouraging those with more severe problems to consider referrals to specialized intervention services. It has been
 shown to decrease alcohol intake, risky drinking practices, and injury frequency.
- Benefits of improved collaboration and coordination across the system will include a reduction in avoidable visits to emergency rooms and
 hospitalizations, reduced wait times for community- and hospital-based services, and improved access to community supports, helping to
 address the needs of clients in a more timely manner.
- See Appendix K in the original guideline document for benefits of psychosocial interventions.

Potential Harms

Adverse patient reactions to treatment medication

Qualifying Statements

Qualifying Statements

• These guidelines are not binding on nurses or the organizations that employ them. The use of these guidelines should be flexible, and based

on individual needs and local circumstances. They neither constitute a liability nor discharge from liability. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the contents at the time of publication, neither the authors nor the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) gives any guarantee as to the accuracy of the information contained in them or accepts any liability, with respect to loss, damage, injury, or expense arising from any such errors or omissions in the contents of this work.

- This nursing Best Practice Guideline (BPG) is a comprehensive document that provides resources for evidence-based nursing practice. It is not intended to be a manual or "how to" guide, but rather a tool to guide best practices and enhance decision making for nurses working with clients who use substances. The Guideline should be reviewed and applied in accordance with both the needs of the individual organizations or practice settings, and the needs and preferences of the client. In addition, the Guideline provides an overview of appropriate structures and supports for providing the best possible evidence-based care.
- Nurses, other health-care providers, and administrators who lead and facilitate practice changes will find this document invaluable for
 developing policies, procedures, protocols, educational programs and assessments, interventions, and documentation tools. Nurses and
 other health-care providers in direct care will benefit from reviewing the recommendations and the evidence that supports them. It is
 recommended that practice settings adapt these guidelines in formats that are user-friendly for daily use.

Implementation of the Guideline

Description of Implementation Strategy

Implementation Strategies

Implementing guidelines at the point of care is multi-faceted and challenging; it takes more than awareness and distribution of guidelines to get people to change how they practice. Guidelines must be adapted for each practice setting in a systematic and participatory way, to ensure recommendations fit the local context. The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario's (RNAO) *Toolkit: Implementation of Best Practice Guidelines* (2nd ed.) provides an evidence-informed process for doing this (see Appendix N in the original guideline document).

The Toolkit is based on emerging evidence that successful uptake of best practice in health-care is more likely when:

- Leaders at all levels are committed to supporting guideline implementation
- Guidelines are selected for implementation through a systematic, participatory process
- Stakeholders for whom the guidelines are relevant are identified and engaged in the implementation
- Environmental readiness for implementing guidelines is assessed
- The guideline is tailored to the local context
- Barriers and facilitators to using the guideline are assessed and addressed
- Interventions to promote use of the guideline are selected
- Use of the guideline is systematically monitored and sustained
- Evaluation of the guideline's impact is embedded in the process
- There are adequate resources to complete all aspects of the implementation

The Toolkit uses the "Knowledge-to-Action" framework to demonstrate the process steps required for knowledge inquiry and synthesis. It also guides the adaptation of the new knowledge to the local context and implementation. This framework suggests identifying and using knowledge tools, such as guidelines, to identify gaps and to begin the process of tailoring the new knowledge to local settings.

RNAO is committed to widespread deployment and implementation of their Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs). RNAO uses a coordinated approach to dissemination, incorporating a variety of strategies including: 1) the Nursing Best Practice Champion Network®, which develops the capacity of individual nurses to foster awareness, engagement, and adoption of BPGs; 2) nursing order sets which provide clear, concise, actionable intervention statements derived from the BPGs' practice recommendations that can be readily embedded within electronic medical records, but may also be used in paper-based or hybrid environments; and 3) the Best Practice Spotlight Organization® (BPSO®) designation, which supports implementation at the organization and system levels. BPSOs focus on developing evidence-based cultures with the specific mandate to implement, evaluate, and sustain multiple RNAO BPGs. In addition, RNAO offers capacity-building learning institutes on specific guidelines and their implementation annually.

Information about RNAO implementation strategies can be found at:

 RNAO Best Practice Champions Network: www.RNAO.ca/bpg/get-inv 	′olved/champions L
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 RNAO Best Practice Spotlight Organizations: www.RNAO.ca/bpg/bpso RNAO capacity-building learning institutes and other professional development opportunities: www.RNAO.ca/events
Implementation Tools
Audit Criteria/Indicators
Clinical Algorithm
Foreign Language Translations
Resources
Tool Kits
For information about availability, see the Availability of Companion Documents and Patient Resources fields below.
Institute of Medicine (IOM) National Healthcare Quality Report Categories
Categories
Categories IOM Care Need
Categories IOM Care Need Getting Better

Identifying Information and Availability

Bibliographic Source(s)

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO). Engaging clients who use substances. Toronto (ON): Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO); 2015 Mar. 115 p. [179 references]

Adaptation

Not applicable: The guideline was not adapted from another source.

Date Released

2015 Mar

Guideline Developer(s)

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario - Professional Association

Source(s) of Funding

This work is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. All work produced by RNAO is editorially independent from its funding source.

Guideline Committee

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) Best Practice Guideline Program Team

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Financial Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

Declarations of interest that might be construed as constituting an actual, potential or apparent conflict were made by all members of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) expert panel, and members were asked to update their disclosures regularly throughout the guideline development process. Information was requested about financial, intellectual, personal and other interests and documented for future reference. No limiting conflicts were identified.

Further details are available from the RNAO.

Guideline Status

This is the current release of the guideline.

This guideline meets NGC's 2013 (revised) inclusion criteria.

Guideline Availability

Electronic copies: Available in English	and French	from the Registered Nurses' Association of
Ontario (RNAO) Web site.		
Print copies: Available from Registered Nurses' Ass	sociation of Ontario (RNAO), Nursi	ng Best Practice Guidelines Project, 158 Pearl Street,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 1L3.		

Availability of Companion Documents

The following are available:

	Toolkit: implementation of best practice guidelines. Second edition. Toronto (ON): Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO);
	2012 Sep. 152 p. Electronic copies: Available from the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) Web site
•	Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario - Nursing Best Practice Guidelines Program: engaging clients who use substances. Guideline
	search strategy. Toronto (ON): Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO); 2015 Mar. 5 p. Electronic copies: Available from the
	RNAO Web site
	Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario - Nursing Best Practice Guidelines Program: engaging clients who use substances. Final
	bibliography. Toronto (ON): Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO); 2014 Nov 18. 32 p. Electronic copies: Available from
	the RNAO Web site
•	Sullivan L, National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation. Synopsis of First Nations substance abuse issues. Toronto (ON):
	Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO); 5 p. Electronic copies: Available from the RNAO Web site

Print copies: Available from the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO), Nursing Best Practice Guidelines Project, 158 Pearl Street, Toronto, Ontario M5H 1L3.

Structure, process, and outcome indicators are available in the original guideline document.

A variety of resources, including sample prevention-based strategies, guiding questions for transtheoretical model of change, commonly used screening tools, considerations for vulnerable populations, types of psychosocial interventions, and tools for ongoing evaluation of the plan of care,

are available in the appendices of the original guideline document.

Patient Resources

None available

NGC Status

This NGC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on August 12, 2015. The information was verified by the guideline developer on September 16, 2015.

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